

## METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING PARTS PROCUREMENT AND PRODUCTION PLANNING ACROSS AN EXTENDED SUPPLY CHAIN

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An exemplary embodiment of the invention relates to a computer-based system  
5 and method for automating supply chain functions in a network environment, and more  
particularly, for identifying and implementing cost-savings techniques within the parts  
procurement and production planning system of an extended enterprise. The system  
includes a manufacturing enterprise or original equipment manufacturer (OEM) system  
comprising a host system operating a web server, an applications server, and a database  
10 manager; a data storage device in communication with the host system, and at least one  
terminal for accessing the host system. The OEM system runs on a network that is  
coupled to the Internet and is accessible to a supplier enterprise system and/or contract  
manufacturer system identified with proper permissions. The applications server  
executes a set of programs for managing the OEM system, including the A-source  
15 application of the present invention. The A-source application is assisted by bridging  
software capable of integrating a variety of data pertaining to parts or components  
collected from a plurality of sources, such as physical attributes for components stored in  
one database and corresponding business attributes stored in a second database, and  
organizing the data in a manner such that the organization implementing the software can  
20 then perform comprehensive analyses on the integrated data and ultimately make more  
effective purchasing decisions based upon the analyses. Bills of material, requests for  
quotes (RFQs), requests for price updates, and the physical and business attributes  
belonging to the bills of material are inputted into the manufacturing enterprise system  
via the A-source application where analysis and calculations are performed on the inputs  
25 and cost savings techniques can be identified and electronically implemented.